

**AMENDMENT**

Please amend the application without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents.

**In the Claims**

- 1-9. (Cancelled)
10. (Allowed) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide with the function of a serine protease inhibitor or a divalent cation binding agent, selected from the group consisting of:
  - (a) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7 or a functionally equivalent variant of the polypeptide;
  - (b) a polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:6;
  - (c) a polynucleotide which hybridizes under stringent conditions with one of the polynucleotides mentioned under (a) or (b) or is complementary thereto; and
  - (d) a polynucleotide whose nucleotide sequence deviates from the sequence of the polynucleotide mentioned under (a), (b) or (c) owing to the degeneracy of the genetic code.
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Currently amended) A vector comprising the polynucleotide as claimed in ~~any of claims 9, 10 or 25~~ claim 10.
13. (Currently amended) A host cell which expresses a polynucleotide as claimed in ~~any of claims 9, 10 or 25~~ claim 10.
- 14-25. (Cancelled)